

HOUSE BILL 566

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

W. Ken Martinez

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING THAT SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF  
A JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING COURSE CURRICULUM SATISFIES  
THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION;  
AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each  
student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets forth  
the coursework for the grades remaining until high school  
graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences  
from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the  
principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by

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1 the student, the student's parent [~~or guardian~~] and the  
2 student's guidance counselor or other school official charged  
3 with coursework planning for the student.

4 B. Each student must complete a final next-step  
5 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The plan  
6 shall be filed with the principal of the student's high school  
7 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent [~~or~~  
8 ~~guardian~~] and the student's guidance counselor or other school  
9 official charged with coursework planning for the student.

10 C. An individualized education program that meets  
11 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and  
12 that meets all applicable transition and procedural  
13 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
14 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the  
15 next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

16 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high  
17 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan  
18 and is reasonably informed about:

- 19 (1) curricular and course options;  
20 (2) opportunities available that lead to  
21 different post-high-school options; and  
22 (3) alternative opportunities available if the  
23 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

24 E. The secretary [~~of public education~~] shall:

- 25 (1) establish specific accountability

1 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school  
2 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity  
3 to develop a next-step plan;

4 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private  
5 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the  
6 provisions of this section;

7 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements  
8 of this section; and

9 (4) compile such information as is necessary  
10 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,  
11 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee  
12 and the governor.

13 F. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-  
14 three units aligned to the state academic content and  
15 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These  
16 units shall be as follows:

17 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis  
18 on grammar and literature;

19 (2) three units in mathematics, at least one  
20 of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;

21 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
22 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with  
23 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006  
24 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of  
25 which shall have a laboratory component;

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1 (4) three units in social science, which shall  
2 include United States history and geography, world history and  
3 geography and government and economics;

4 (5) one unit in physical education or other  
5 physical activity or successful completion of a junior reserve  
6 officer training corps curriculum;

7 (6) one unit in communication skills or  
8 business education, with a major emphasis on writing and  
9 speaking and that may include a language other than English;  
10 and

11 (7) nine elective units and eight elective  
12 units for students entering the ninth grade in the 2005-2006  
13 school year that meet [~~state board~~] department content and  
14 performance standards. Student service learning shall be  
15 offered as an elective.

16 G. The department shall establish a procedure for  
17 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified  
18 career technical education courses for certain graduation  
19 requirements.

20 H. Final examinations shall be administered to all  
21 students in all classes offered for credit.

22 I. A student shall not receive a high school  
23 diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in  
24 the subject areas of reading, English, [~~math~~] mathematics,  
25 writing, science and social science. The state graduation

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1 examination on social science shall include a section on the  
2 constitution of the United States and the constitution of New  
3 Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end  
4 of grade twelve without having passed a state graduation  
5 examination, ~~he~~ the student shall receive an appropriate  
6 state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and  
7 the grade completed. If within five years after a student  
8 exits from the school system ~~he~~ the student takes and passes  
9 the state graduation examination, ~~he~~ the student may receive  
10 a high school diploma.

11 J. As used in this section:

12 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step  
13 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to  
14 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,  
15 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an  
16 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

17 (2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual  
18 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school  
19 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student  
20 to achieve those goals; and

21 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal  
22 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public  
23 school or other state-supported school or institution in  
24 consultation with the student's parent ~~or guardian~~ and school  
25 counselor or other school official charged with coursework

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planning for the student.

K. The secretary [~~of public education~~] may establish a policy to provide for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."